GRANGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1944.

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1944 on the Sanitary circumstances, administration and vital statistics of the Grange-over-Sands Urban District. It is shorter than would have been the case in peace-time to comply with the instructions of the Ministry of Health that such reports should be curtailed during the period of the war.

Situated in the Furness Area of Lancashire, on the shore of Morecambe Bay, in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of England, Grange-over-Sands has many natural advantages which render it deservedly popular as a health and holiday resort renowned for its distinction and charm.

Statistics for 1944.

Area of District.	1884½ acres.
Population.	2762
Number of Inhabited Houses.	814
Rateable Value.	£27,619
Amount produced by a Penny Rate.	£110

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

There were 23 births, 12 male and 11 female, giving a birth rate of 8.3 per 1000, compared with a rate of 17.6 for England and Wales. Two of the births were of illegitimate children.

DEATHS.

Forty-five deaths of residents were registered giving a death rate of 16.3 per 1000, compared with a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

Causes of Death.

Infantile Mortality, i.e. deaths of infants under one year of age - none.

Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age - none.

Maternal Mortality. - none.

Infectious Diseases. - none.

Diseases of the Heart and Blood Vessels. - Of the 24 deaths certified as having been caused by these diseases, 14 were ascribed to diseases of the heart; 9 to intracranial vascular lesions; and 1 to other diseases of the circulator system.

Diseases of the Respiratory System. - There were 3 deaths from pneumonia, none from bronchitis and none from other diseases of the respiratory system.

Cancer. - There were 5 deaths from cancer.

Other causes of death were:- non-pulmonary tuberculosis - 1; diabetes - 2; digestive diseases - 3; nephritis - 1; road traffic accidents - 2; all other causes - 4.

Infectious Diseases.

Incidence of Infectious Disease during the five years 1939-1943 compared with that for 1944.

Disease.	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944		
						No. of cases	Removed to Hospital	Died in Hospital
Scarlet Fever.		1	1	11	2	8	8	-
Diphtheria.								
Pneumonia		1	2	3	5	2		
Measles.		1	14	14	13	23		
Whooping Cough.		2	30	1		30		
Bacillary Dysentary					13			
Puerperal Fever.				1		1		
Totals.	Nil	5	47	30	33	64	8	Nil.

A small outbreak of scarlet fever, amounting to a total of 7 cases, occurred in the month of March at Charney Hall School. I met Dr. Anderson at the school on two occasions, examined the throats of pupils and staff and took swabs from any suspicious throats. I continued to visit the school, from time to time, until I was satisfied that further infection was unlikely to occur.

The incidence of measles and of whooping cough was relatively high. Unfortunately little, if anything, can be done to control outbreaks of these diseases.

Two cases of bacillary dysentery were reported, but the diagnosis was not bacteriologically confirmed.

There were fortunately no cases of diphtheria.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1944 a total of 7 children completed the full course of Immunisation, namely 4 under 5 years and 3 between the ages of 5 and 15 years. At the end of the year, it was estimated that 36.6 of the child population under 5 years of age and 89.2 per cent of the children between the ages of 5 and 15 in the school maintained by the Lancashire County Education Authority had been protected against attack by diphtheria by means of Immunisation.

We are indebted to the Headmaster, Mr. Berry, and his Staff and to the County Health Visitor for their assistance in connexion with the work of Immunisation.

It is satisfactory to be able to record that not a single case of diphtheria has occurred among the children Immunised by Mrs. Macewen.

Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological investigations continued to be carried out, on behalf of the Council, at the Ministry of Health Emergency Pathological Service Laboratory at the High Carley Sanatorium. I am indebted to Dr. Brundret, the Pathologist

and Bacteriologist, for his valuable co-operation in the investigation of many problems associated with the prevention and cure of disease.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality During 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory.	
Years.	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-								
1-								
5-		1						
10-								
15-								
20-		1						
25-								
35-				1				
45-								1
55-								
65 & upwards								
		2		1				1
TOTALS.	2		1				1	
	3				1			

Sanitary Supervision.

It has been a pleasure to be associated with your Surveyor in the sanitary supervision of the district. The work undertaken by him in this respect is summarised below:-

Informal Notices issued.	5
Rat complaints dealt with.	7
Eaves gutters repaired.	1
House drains cleared.	4
" " repaired.	3
Dairies & cowsheds inspections.	20
School milk samples taken.	3
Offensive trade inspections.	6
Rooms disinfected.	12
Bug infestation dealt with.	1
Bedding destroyed.	3
Fish unfit for sale.	21 lbs.

Rainfall.

Year.	First quarter.	Second quarter.	Third quarter.	Fourth quarter.	TOTAL.
1933	12.01	7.91	8.42	8.90	37.24
1934	10.86	13.20	14.89	16.57	55.52
1935	10.63	12.54	17.21	18.80	59.18
1936	12.12	6.94	15.94	18.43	53.43
1937	12.69	9.39	11.47	8.59	42.14
1938	11.21	11.33	15.88	24.05	62.47
1939	13.17	8.20	13.62	13.19	48.18
1940	9.16	5.35	12.54	17.61	44.66
1941	9.68	6.69	9.78	13.93	40.08
1942	8.12	7.89	17.08	14.50	47.59
1943	12.55	12.36	19.72	13.30	57.93
1944	8.61	10.90	16.22	20.33	56.06
Average for 34 years.	12.34	9.53	15.12	16.67	53.66 ins.
Average of four consecutive driest years 1939-1942.	10.0325	7.0325	13.2550	14.8075	45.1275 ".

Water Supply.

The circular of the Ministry of Health on the preparation of Annual Reports for 1944 requires the Medical Officer of Health to state for the year:-

(i) "whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory. (a) in quantity. (b) in quality.

(ii) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water, and, where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply, if so, how many and the results obtained; the results of any chemical analyses.

(iii) where the waters are liable to have plumbo solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including precautions taken and number and results of analyses.

(iv) action in respect of any form of contamination.

(v) particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public water mains. (a) direct to the houses and (b) by means of stand-pipes".

Grange is supplied with upland surface water derived from open moorland at an elevation of from 580 to 800 feet above O.D. grazed almost entirely by sheep. None of the land is cultivated. The water works supply not only the Urban District of Grange, but also Newton, Lindale and the Cartmel Valley Area of the adjoining Ulverston Rural District. Throughout the year, the water was good in quality, and, though the quantity in the reservoirs fell, at times, to undesirably low levels, no shortage occurred.

The results of bacteriological examination of the water are given below:-

Date -	24th April.	9th August.	26th Oct.	3rd. Nov.	15th Dec.
Prob. No. of coliform organisms per 100 c.c.	0	0	1	0	1
Plate Count after 2 days at 37° C. colonies per 1 c.c.	0	0	5	not given	2
Plate Count after 3 days at 22° C. colonies per 1 c.c.	54	250	730	not given	300.

A description of the existing Grange Water Works and of the scheme prepared on behalf of the Grange Urban District Council by the Consulting Engineer, Mr. H. B. Ward, to augment the water supply appeared in the Annual Report for 1943. This scheme was submitted to the Ministry of Health with a view to loan sanction being obtained which would enable constructional work to be commenced as soon after the cessation of hostilities as circumstances might permit.

The Rural District Council of Ulverston lodged formal objection to the scheme. As the grounds were not stated this led to correspondence and to meetings between representatives of the two Councils to discuss the difficulty which had arisen. In the meantime ~~they~~ the Grange Council had submitted their scheme to the North, Central and South-East Lancashire Regional Advisory Water Committee.

The following is an extract from the Minutes of the North, Central and South-East Lancashire Regional Advisory Water Committee held in Manchester on the 11th April, 1945.

Resolved:-

1. That in our view it is essential in the interests of both the Grange Urban District and the Ulverston Rural District, that provision should be made for the supply of additional water.

2. That the Sub-Committee consider that the scheme proposed by the Grange Urban District Council will achieve that object and is not open to objection on engineering grounds.

3. That the Grange Urban District Council should be permitted to proceed with the scheme they have submitted, without prejudice however to further consideration being given by both Councils to the question of whether, in the interests of the consumers, a case exists for the constitution of a Joint-Water Board.

The above resolution appears to be very satisfactory. The provision of a more abundant water supply is a matter of urgent necessity and it is important that everything should be in readiness so as to permit of work being commenced on the construction of the new reservoir as soon after the cessation of hostilities as circumstances permit. An extended and more adequate system of filtration will also be necessary while the relaying of certain lengths of water main cannot be much longer postponed.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 10 cowkeepers in the district engaged in the production of milk for sale, seven of whom are producer retailers. There is one producer of Accredited Milk. In addition to producers in the Urban District, six retailers from the adjoining Rural District distribute milk in Grange.

While there are one or two farmsteads in the Urban District at which the conditions are satisfactory, or reasonably satisfactory, the general standard falls far short of modern requirements. Many of the shippons are old stone-built structures, often with lofts above, some are defective in air space, some in height, some in lighting and ventilation and some in internal arrangement. Defective floors and drainage are all too common, while the internal surfaces of walls are often rough, uneven and difficult to maintain in an adequate state of cleanliness.

In many instances there is no separate dairy in which milk can be cooled and stored. The farmhouse kitchen, scullery, or wash-house is not infrequently used for the purpose in contravention of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. This practice cannot be too strongly deprecated. In the event of an inmate of the farm-house contracting one of the milk-borne infectious diseases the keeping or cooling of milk or the cleansing of milk vessels or utensils in the kitchen, scullery or wash-house is a procedure fraught with danger to the health of the consumers of the milk.

Owing to the shortage of labour and materials, which brought structural work of all kinds practically to a standstill, it was not possible to effect material improvement in the condition of the farmsteads during the period of the war. Now that the European war is at an end, it is to be hoped that the supply of labour and materials may slowly improve. As the farmsteads are under the supervision of your very able Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Huddleston, I have no doubt that, as conditions become more normal, everything possible will be done to secure for the inhabitants of Grange an abundant supply of clean and wholesome milk.

Evacuation.

The reception, billeting and subsequent care of large numbers of evacuees from London and areas in the South of England involved much work during the course of the year - work which was very willingly undertaken and afforded excellent results. An organised party of 85 unaccompanied children arrived by rail at Grange on the 7th July. The arrangements made for their reception and billeting left nothing to be desired. The children were medically examined by Mrs. Macewen, with the much appreciated assistance of Dr. Lowther, before proceeding to their new homes.

An organised party of accompanied children arrived at Grange on the 11th July, and were dealt with in a some-what similar way.

I am indebted to Mr. Gunning, the Billeting Officer, for the following figures in respect of the total number of evacuees billeted in Grange during the year 1944:-

Unaccompanied children	130
Accompanied children.	95
Mothers.	50
Aged and Infirm.	25
School Teachers.	4
	304

Notwithstanding the almost insuperable difficulty experienced in obtaining and maintaining the requisite staff, the Kilmidyke Hostel for the accommodation of eneuretic children was at once opened on the arrival of the evacuees in Grange and carried on most useful work during the whole period that they remained and until they departed, about a year later in July 1945. Those admitted to the Hostel comprised "bed-wetting" evacuees, not only from Grange, but from the surrounding districts as well.

The Council are, in my opinion, to be congratulated on the success of the arrangements made by them for the welfare of the evacuees during their stay in Grange. The kindly householders welcomed the unaccompanied children to their homes, notwithstanding the serious inconvenience that this often entailed, and cared for them throughout their stay as though they had been their own. I had many opportunities of observing how happy the children became and how much improved in health many of them were when the time came for their return to the South.

Public Cleansing.

The removal of house refuse is undertaken by the Council and, notwithstanding shortage of labour and transport, is effectively performed. Salvage has been regularly collected and disposed of for national use.

Sewerage and Drainage.

Sewage and rainwater are dealt with on the combined system. The sewerage of the Urban District has not given rise to any trouble throughout the year.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

On the 31st March of this year, 1945, your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Huddleston, retired after the long period of 43½ years in the Council's service. I should like to place on record my appreciation of, and grateful thanks for, the very valuable assistance I have invariably received from Mr. Huddleston. It has been a great pleasure to be associated with him in the Sanitary supervision of your district.

Though Mr. Huddleston has retired, his part-time services are still retained by the Council in the capacity of Consultant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, posts in which his wide experience and intimate knowledge of local conditions will be of great value.

On Mr. Huddleston's retirement, Mr. W. A. Hancocks became Surveyor to the Council.

Conclusion.

This is the second, and the last, annual report I shall have the honour to present to the Grange-over-Sands Urban District Council. I regard it as a privelege to have been your temporary Medical Officer of Health. I never worked among nicer or kinder people than those in the Ulverston Combined Sanitary District. They are deserving of the best services which Councils and Officials can render. In my experience, the work of the Grange Council has always been conducted in a manner calculated to attain that end and I wish them every success in all their plans for the present and the future.

My grateful thanks are due to the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, for their invariable courtesy, kindness and support.

I remain, Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Yours obedient servant,

HUGH A. MACEWEN.